

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 ACDA-10 PM-03 SP-01

L-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 EB-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /065 W

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R 241529Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8249

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2035

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, XG, MCAP

SUBJECT: EUROGROUP MEETING IN OSLO MAY 23

REF: USNATO 2832

1. DISCUSSIONS AT INFORMAL MEETING OF EUROGROUP

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HELD IN OSLO MAY 23 FOCUSED ON CREATION OF HEALTHY

EUROPEAN ARMS INDUSTRY AND NEED FOR BROAD-BASED STUDY ON MILITARY CAPABILITIES AND THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE. DEBRIEF BY EMBOFF OF A MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIAL WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING LEAVES IMPRESSION THE UK DISCUSSION PAPER QUOTED IN REFTEL WAS BEFORE THE GROUP, ALTHOUGH OUR SOURCE MADE NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF PAPER. SOURCE STATED THAT "FRANK EXCHANGE" OCCURRED ON HOW TO RESTORE EUROPEAN ARMS INDUSTRY TO HEALTH WITHOUT ANTAGONIZING U.S. OR APPEARING TO ADOPT ANTI-U.S. STANCE.

2. ONLY OTHER SUBJECT DISCUSSED IN LENGTH AT MEETING, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, WAS HOW TO IMPROVE MILITARY CAPABILITIES FOR THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE AND TO FACILITATE ENORMOUS TASK CONFRONTING EUROPEAN POLITICIANS OF MAINTAINING EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORT. ATTENDEES UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT AN OVERALL STUDY OF THE PROBLEM WOULD BE REQUIRED, GEARED TO AN ASSESSMENT OF EUROPEAN MILITARY CAPABILITIES VIS-A-VIS THE WARSAW PACT THREAT IN THE SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BOTH ARMS INDUSTRY AND DEFENSE CAPABILITY ISSUES WILL BE RAISED AT JUNE 13 MEETING OF EUROGROUP MINISTERS.

4. OSLO MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY ERIK HIMLE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, WHO SUBSEQUENTLY STATED TO PRESS THAT MAIN DISCUSSION TOPIC WAS CLOSER COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. PRESS STATES THAT IT HAD BEEN EXPECTED THAT THE ROLE OF FRANCE IN FUTURE EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION, AS WELL AS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE EUROGROUP TO WEU, WOULD BE MAJOR SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION, BUT THAT ACCORDING TO HIMLE THESE TOPICS DID NOT RECEIVE MUCH ATTENTION--PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE FRENCH POLITICAL SITUATION. HIMLE ALSO SAID AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT ISSUE RECEIVED ONLY BRIEF MENTION SINCE THIS MATTER BEING HANDLED BY FOUR NATIONS WITHIN

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EUROGROUP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MEETINGS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OSLO02035
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740131-0567
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740520/aaaaaqxw.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: USNATO 2832
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROGROUP MEETING IN OSLO MAY 23
TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, XG, NATO, EUROGROUP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005